

Pennyrile DEIC Minutes September 8, 2006

Attending: Beverly Turner, Eileen Cameron, Rheanne Brummett, Devonne Stirsman, Sharon Oliver, Kathy Miller, Heather Curtis, Beth Satterly, Robin Guynn, Molly Moller, David Girdner

Minutes: The June minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker: Kris Hayes, Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center, (WKATC) gave information that their agency will start purchasing equipment in November. More information will be sent in October. The Kentucky Assistive Technology System (KATS) has received a grant that will help buy new equipment. RJ Cooper, an AT “guru” will be at the center Sept. 13 for a workshop and sessions will be videotaped. He works with all ages and all disabilities regarding AT issues. WKATC is one part of the network of AT centers across the state. Equipment can be purchased at any of the other 4 locations right now. Assessments can be done by the WKATC therapists who are First Steps providers if IFSP teams need this assistance. E-mail is the best way to reach Kris Hayes: (khayes@wfcampus.org) Therapists can check out equipment for 7 days at no cost, however, if shipping is involved, therapists will have to pay that expense. The phone number for WKATC is 270-852-1488.

Provider Update: Betty Deckard and Melanie Carter, independent PSCs, have moved. There is a new independent PSC, Joe Littleton, and Devonne Stirsman is a new PSC with the Pennyroyal Center. Heather Vinson is a new speech therapist. Several counties have service gaps for most disciplines.

Point of Entry Report: During June there were 26 referrals, 22 initial IFSP meetings, 10 cases exceeding 45 days, 23 cases carried over from May, and a month-end caseload of 5. For July there were 25 referrals, 7 initial IFSP meetings, 3 cases over 45 days, 5 carried over from June and a month-end caseload of 5. During August there were 32 referrals, 5 initial IFSP meetings, 3 cases over 45 days, 5 cases carried over from July and a month-end caseload of 9.

Child find activities were booths set up at the Todd County Baby Shower, Caldwell County Preschool Screening and at the Trigg County Meet & Greet; brochures were given to Todd County Youth Services for Teen Parenting classes, Salvation Army, Sanctuary House, Targeted Assessment program from UK, and Caldwell County HANDS & Health Department. The Pennyroyal Center Orientation training was also a child find activity.

Technical Assistance Team Report: Pam Rockwell and Kathy attended the Infant Toddler Institute in Ft. Mitchell Aug. 9 – 11. Sharon Oliver received the Jim Henson Service Award, one of the two ICC awards given yearly. Congratulations to Sharon!

Kathy e-mailed the following training information to the DEIC list: Regional Training Center Fall Schedule (8/24), KY Deaf-Blind Project Fall & Winter Institutes which are November through January 2007 (9/7), and the Sept. 29 Autism Society of West Kentucky’s Conference (9/7.)

The First Steps website is updated by the 10th of each month and has several new things for September. There was a notice about CBIS Electronic Billing Cut-off dates/times, the National Provider Identifier letter that was sent to all providers, and 3 online surveys. These surveys were used at the provider forums last winter and at the Infant Toddler Institute. There is a “Question of the Month” for feedback from providers for the Central Office & administration to make improvements or changes in the program.

The Statewide Provider Description Form, Resource 13 may be revised to reflect actual requirements for providers billing insurance when families choose to use it. The way the insurance information appears now gives the impression that providers have the option of accepting family’s insurance, when

in fact, many disciplines are required to bill. Exemptions are for service coordination, primary evaluations, assessments, and the disciplines of DI, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, & Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. When Angie Lawrence, the financial administrator, spoke at the provider meeting in June at Miss Scarlett's Restaurant, she noted that in the future all disciplines may have to bill insurance when families want to use it. More information will be shared if changes occur.

Old/New Business: Many of the "bio sheets" or provider description forms that the POE and PSCs have in their referral notebooks might not show the most current information on providers, counties, services provided, or staff changes. It was discussed that the Purchase DEIC just updated bio sheets and the template they used will be sent out on the Pennyrile DEIC e-mail list.

Service coordinators use the provider forms when families are choosing providers for evaluations, assessments, interventions, and service coordination, so it's an important marketing and informational tool for each provider. David Girdner offered to invite a guest speaker to come to the DEIC meeting to talk about marketing tips for the bio sheets.

Another element to the forms is consistency in appearance. The Purchase DEIC voted for the sheets to be plain white backgrounds with black printing. There are other options such as colorful backgrounds with pictures or graphics. The details for the forms will be discussed and voted on at the Dec. 8th meeting, so all providers are encouraged to attend that day or let one of the voting members (Lori Strader, Traci Mansfield, Heather Curtis, April Dill, Sarah Evans, Angela Stewart, David Girdner, & Rheanne Brummett) know their preference in case they can't be present.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 8, Noon, PADD Office, 300 Hammond Drive, Hopkinsville. The PSC meeting begins at 10 AM and extends through the DEIC meeting that day.